

# The Charge: CIA a Tool

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WASHINGTON

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, the lady from Maine who wielded a mean metaphor, said yesterday the Central Intelligence Agency was becoming a "dumping ground for the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy."

She was speaking, in this instance, of the "missile gap," used by Mr. Kennedy and other Democrats during the Presidential campaign to belabor the Eisenhower administration's record on defense.

Democrat critics of the Republican performance said the Soviets had many more long-range missiles than the United States, and candidate Kennedy pledged that if elected he would act to close this "gap."

One of the "missile gap" theory's leading adherents, Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., suggested in an exchange with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, during a recent hearing, that the CIA both created and then destroyed, the "missile gap."

That was because, as Mr. McNamara had testified, intelligence evaluation was a factor in determining Soviet strength as compared with U.S. needs, and now estimates

showed in 1961 that Soviet missile power was far less than some figured during the campaign and hence since involved had been originally thought.

This apparently wiped out the "gap"—or as Sen. Smith caustically termed it yesterday the "missile myth."

The Maine Republican was assailed by Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R., N. Y., in a taped TV debate whether she thought it was accurate or fair to blame our intelligence agencies for creation of the "missile gap."

Bounds It a Cliché-All

The 40-year distaff member of the Senate Armed Services and Senate Committees figuraively retorted her reply:

"I am very sceptical about the true nature of the intelligence gap," she declared. "The CIA is becoming very good at covering up the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy which are coming back to haunt him as President."

"I do not have a very high regard for the CIA."

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criticized for this reported view.

Last month, the plane pilot, Francis Gary Powers, returned to the U. S. after being freed by the Russians and was given a clean bill of health by the CIA. He carried out his mission to the best of his ability, the CIA report said, implying that he was not to blame for the summit-smashing repercussions of his capture.

## A Flap Develops

But the "missile gap," which many politicians now consider discreetly interred, showed a surprising degree of political life, even after the 1960 campaign was over and Mr. Kennedy was in the White House.

On Feb. 6, 1961, Defense Secretary McNamara had an informal private meeting with a few reporters. He had been understood to feel that preliminary studies he had made suggested that no "missile gap" existed, despite the campaign

noted sarcastically that the much-mentioned "missile gap" became very hard to locate when Mr. Kennedy entered the White House.

Democrats shot back. Sen. Symington said that if the Eisenhower administration had not adopted a "calculated" policy of preventing candidate Kennedy "from obtaining adequate information," he would have been "in a better position to tell the American people the facts."

Sen. Richard B. Russell, D., Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said flatly "a missile gap does exist," a view echoed by other Democrats.

Then, toward the end of last year, intelligence estimates which revised downward the U. S. assessment of Soviet missile power began to be leaked to the press. These held that the "missile gap" period—during 1958, 1959 and 1960—had ended.

Intelligence agencies had concluded that the Soviet missile gap had closed sometime in 1960. It was said, it turned the Russians on to all-out production.